

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 EUR-12 IO-14 HA-05 AID-05 /104 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6921
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 ABIDJAN 0417

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, IV
SUBJECT: GISCARD'S VISIT TO IVORY COAST -- ABIDJAN PORTION

REF: ABIDJAN 0339

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING CONCLUDED FRIDAY THE ABIDJAN PORTION OF HIS FIVE-DAY VISIT TO IVORY COAST. THE HIGHLIGHTS OF HIS VERY SUCCESSFUL STAY IN ABIDJAN WERE THE DINNER AND RECEPTION HOSTED BY PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY WEDNESDAY, GISCARD'S SPEECH TO THE IVORIAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THURSDAY, AND THE RECEPTION HOSTED BY GISCARD AT THE FRENCH RESIDENCE THURSDAY EVENING. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY GISCARD AND HOUPHOUET FOLLOWS. GISCARD WILL REMAIN IN YAMOUSSOUKRO, HOUPHOUET'S BIRTHPLACE, THROUGH SUNDAY WHEN HE WILL DEPART FOR PARIS. TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY GISCARD STATED FRANCE WOULD TAKE INITIATIVE SHOULD SAHEL DROUGHT WORSEN; THAT HE
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HAD HAD A FAVORABLE RESPONSE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER ON HIS PROPOSAL FOR SPECIAL FUND FOR AFRICA; AND REFERRED TO HIS CALL FOR AFRICAN-EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY PACT. END SUMMARY.

1. AT THE DINNER HE HOSTED FOR GISCARD WEDNESDAY, HOUPHOUET SPOKE WARMLY AND ELOQUENTLY ON THE EXCELLENT STATE OF FRANCO-IVORIAN RELATIONS. COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO DRAWS ITS ORIGINALITY FROM

"HAVING NEITHER THE UNHEALTHY CHARACTER OF AID PETERNALISTICALLY GIVEN AND THEREFORE BADLY RECEIVED, NOR THE COLORING OF IDEAOLOGICAL IMPERIALISM WHICH TOO OFTEN SOURS RELATIONS BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES." MOREOVER, HOUPHOUET WOULD HOPE THAT OTHER EUROPEANS UNDERSTAND WHAT GISCARD HAS UNDERSTOOD, NAMELY, THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA IS LINKED TO ITS STABILITY AND ITS SECURITY. AN INDEPENDENT, PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS AFRICA IS CRITICAL TO EUROPE. IVORY COAST IS PLEASED TO SEE THAT FRANCE HAS UNDERSTOOD THIS, AS THE SHABA AFFAIR DEMONSTRATED. HOUPHOUET WENT ON TO PRAISE GISCARD'S ROLE IN THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, HIS PROPOSAL FOR A FUND FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA, AND HIS CALL FOR AN AFRICA FOR AFRICANS. IVORY COAST IS TOO SMALL AND TOO YOUNG TO PRESUME A ROLE COMPARABLE TO THE FRENCH; BUT FRANCE MAY BE ASSURED THAT IVORY COAST WILL ALWAYS BE AT HER SIDE TO CONTRIBUTE WHAT SHE CAN TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE THROUGH DIALOGUE.

2. IN HIS RESPONSE TO HOUPHOUET, GISCARD ALSO HELD FORTH ON THE EXCELLENT STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND WARMLY PRAISED THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF IVORY COAST. BASED ON MAN AND THE LAND, IVORY COAST'S ECONOMIC PROGRESS IS NOT DUE TO A MIRACLE, BUT HARD WORK, WISE POLICIES AND THE LEADERSHIP OF HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY. PRAISING HOUPHOUET'S POLICY OF RESOLVING DIFFERENCES THROUGH DIALOGUE, GISCARD STATED THAT "IN APPEALING TO THE BASIC VALUES OF AFRICA, TO SPIRITUAL FORCES THAT DERIVE FROM AN ANCIENT TRADITION, TO COMMON SENSE, TO THE SPIRIT OF MODERATION, OF PRUDENCE AND THE PERSERVERANCE OF AN AUTHENTIC PEASANTRY,"

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HOUPHOUET HAD TOUCHED EVERY ASPECT OF THE AFRICAN REALITY.

3. ON THURSDAY GISCARD ADDRESSED THE IVORIAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. HE WAS WELCOMED BY PHILIPPE YACE, THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL SUCCESSOR TO HOUPHOUET. AFTER THE USUAL, INTRODUCTORY PLEASANTRIES, GISCARD PROCEEDED TO PAY HOMAGE TO "IVORIAN DEMOCRACY AND ITS PARLIMENTARY STRUCTURES." FISCARD APPLAUDED THE FACT THAT THE ASSEMBLED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE HAD AMONG THEM A GOOD NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS BETWEEN 35-40 YEARS OF AGE; REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL THE REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY AND OF ALL THE SOCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL CLASSES; AND A GOOD PROPORTION OF WOMEN WHO WERE NOT MERE TOKENS. MOREOVER, WHAT THE WORLD ESPECIALLY ENVIES IS THAT IVORY COAST IS ACHIEVING ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN A FREE AND DEMOCRATIC CONTEXT.

FROM THE CONCEPT OF IVORIAN DEMOCRACY, GISCARD TURNED TO ITS PRINCIPLE METHOD -- DIALOGUE; AND FROM DIALOGUE AS A DEMOCRATIC METHOD AMONG IVORIANS, GISCARD TURNED TO DIALOGUE AS THE METHOD FOR SOLVING DISPUTES BETWEEN NATIONS; FOR THE ALTERNATIVE TO DIALOGUE IS THE USE OF FORCE. GISCARD ADMITTED THAT, IN THE FACE OF "IDEOLOGICAL DISPUTES," IT IS DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH A DIALOGUE; BUT "IDEOLOGIES" ARE BASED ON CONDITIONS THAT ARE FOREIGN TO AFRICA.

THEREFORE, "AFRICA MUST BE LEFT TO THE AFRICANS." IF DIALOGUE IS USED AND AFRICA IS PRESERVED FROM FOREIGN INTERFERENCE, THEN SOLUTIONS TO EVEN THE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEMS CAN BE FOUND. THUS WOULD AFRICA BE ABLE TO PURSUE ITS DEVELOPMENT? IN THIS LAST REGARD, GISCARD STATED THREE TENETS OF FRENCH POLICY:

- FIRST, IF AS FEARED THE SAHELEAN DROUGHT WORSENS, FRANCE WOULD TAKE AN INTERNATIONAL AND AFRICAN INITIATIVE IN ORDER TO RESPOND IN A MANNER COMENSURATE TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE COUNTRIES MOST AFFECTED;

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ACTION AF-10

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P R 160955Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6922

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

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- SECOND, GISCARD REFERRED TO HIS PROPOSAL FOR A SPECIAL FUND FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA. HE SAID HE SPOKE TO PRESIDENT CARTER ABOUT THE FUND AND THAT HE HAD OBTAINED "A POSITIVE PRESPONSE" FROM HIS (AT THIS POINT THERE WAS SPONTANEOUS AND SUSTAINED APPLAUSE FROM THE ASSEMBLED REPRESENTATIVES; THIS WAS ALSO HIS ONLY REFERENCE TO ANOTHER CHIEF OF STATE.);

- THIRDLY, GISCARD REFERRED TO HIS PROPOSAL OF LAST JUNE AS REGARDS AN AFRICAN-EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY PACT, ABOUT WHICH HE AND HOUPHOUET "WILL CONTINUE TO THINK AND WHICH WILL BE BORN SOME DAY."

4. GISCARD LEFT FRIDAY FOR YAMOOUSSOUKRO, HOUPHOUET'S BIRTHPLACE,

WHERE HE REMAINED THROUGH SUNDAY. YAMOUSSOUKRO PORTION WILL BE
REPORTED SEPTEL.
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